

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Sixth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of Sixth Essex Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; less than one percent (530) of these admissions reside in the Sixth Essex Representative District. 6% (33) of admissions from the Sixth Essex Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Sixth Essex Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 69% were male and 31% were female.
- 60% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 90% were white non-Latino, 3% were black non-Latino, 3% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 58% were never married, 15% were married, and 26% reported not to be married now.
- 28% had less than high school education, 45% completed high school, and 27% had more than high school education.
- 37% were employed.
- 5% were homeless.
- 44% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Sixth Essex Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	52%	23%	10%	5%	2%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2002							
Sixth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	470	394	157	133	90	93	62
FY '96	396	327	132	84	72	74	48
FY '97	418	355	148	79	39	71	55
FY '98	415	348	125	106	55	85	56
FY '99	432	364	153	112	50	92	63
FY '00	407	335	139	92	40	77	62
FY '01	435	360	127	95	32	108	73
FY '02	530	410	167	132	46	145	83